

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A clock switching circuit that switches between asynchronous first and second clocks according to whether an interface cable, having a hot-plug function, is ~~connection~~ connected or disconnected and comprising:

a first flip-flop group that receives an interface disconnection signal that corresponds to a disconnection or connection of the interface cable in response to said first clock, ~~whether in~~ wherein when the interface cable is disconnected, the a final-stage flip-flop thereof outputs a first selection signal through the a number of first clock edges ~~whose number is the~~ which correspond to a first stage number of the first flip-flop group, and when said interface cable is connected, the final-stage flip-flop outputs a first no-selection signal through one time of the first clock edge, said first flip-flop group outputting said first clock in response to said first selection signal, and ~~prohibiting~~ prohibiting output of said first clock in response to said first no-selection signal;

a second flip-flop group that receives said interface disconnection signal in response to said second clock, wherein when said interface cable is connected, the final-stage flip-flop thereof outputs a second selection signal through the a number of second clock edges ~~whose number is the~~ which correspond to a second stage number of the second flip-flop group, and when said interference cable is disconnected, the final-stage flip-flop outputs a second no-selection signal through one time of the second clock edge, said second flip-flop group outputting said second clock in response to said second selection signal, and prohibiting output of said second clock in response to said second no-selection signal; and

where the second stage number of stages of said second flip-flop group is greater than the that of first stage number of said first flip-flop group according to the a relationship between the frequency of said first and second clocks.

Claim 2. (Original) The clock switching circuit of claim 1 wherein; said second clock is supplied from a PLL circuit that generates said second clock from said first clock, and

when said interface cable is connected, operation of said PLL circuit starts in response to said interface disconnection signal, and said interface disconnection signal is received by said second flip-flop group after a set time therefrom.

Claim 3. (Original) The clock switching circuit of claim 2 wherein; when said interface cable is disconnected, operation of said PLL circuit stops in response to said interface disconnection signal.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The clock switching circuit of claim 1 wherein; the second stage number of stages of said second flip-flop group is ~~capable of~~ being changed according to the operating clock frequency of said interface cable to be connected.

Claim 5. (New) A method for controlling a clock switching circuit, comprising: receiving a basic clock signal from an outside; receiving a PLL clock signal generated from a PLL circuit based on the basic clock signal;

counting a number of the basic clock signal after inhibiting outputting the basic clock signal; and

outputting the PLL clock signal after the number of the basic clock signal which is a predetermined number.

Claim 6. **(New)** A clock switching circuit that switches between a basic clock signal and a PLL clock signal generated from a PLL circuit comprising:

a first flip-flop group having a first number of flip-flop circuits, that receives the basic clock signal and outputs an outputted basic clock signal;

a second flip-flop group having a second number of flip-flop circuits, that receives the PLL clock signal and outputs an outputted PLL clock signal; and

a selecting circuit that selects either one of the outputted basic clock signal or the outputted PLL clock signal;

wherein the second number is greater than the first number in order to prevent the clock switching circuit from producing a hazard.

Claim 7. **(New)** A clock signal switching circuit that switches an output from a basic clock to a fast clock comprising:

a PLL circuit that generates said fast clock whose frequency is more than twice as much as a frequency of the basic signal; and

an inhibiting circuit that inhibits said fast clock by a time when said basic clock disappears in said output in the case of switching said output from said basic clock to said fast clock.

Claim 8. (New) A clock signal switching circuit that switches an output from a basic clock to a fast clock comprising:

a PLL circuit that generates said fast clock whose frequency is more than twice as much as a frequency of the basic signal; and

an inhibiting circuit that inhibits said fast clock within a term which depends on a difference between said frequency of said basic clock and said frequency of said fast clock in the case of switching said output from said basic clock to said fast clock.